GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2148
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2016
Exclusion Criteria under NSAP
Trivedi Shri Dinesh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the benefits of the National Social Assistance Programme are reaching only one-fourth of the elderly population in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to use the Socio-Economic and Caste Survey data to decide exclusion criteria for eligibility for NSAP;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government also proposes to increase the pension amount as part of NSAP and/or index it to inflation and if so, the details thereof.

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): The schemes under National Social Assistance programme(NSAP) are social welfare/security schemes meant only for the households living Below Poverty Line (BPL) and not for all elderly population. Pension /assistance is provided on fulfilling the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Government of India. The schemes are for urban as well as for rural areas of the Country. Old Age Pension is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), which is a component of NSAP, Ministry of Rural Development. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to person of 60 years and above and belonging to family living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by Government of India. Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month is provided to person in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs. 500/- per month to persons of 80 years and above.

(b)& (c): No, the Government has as yet not decided to use the Socio-Economic and Caste Survey data to decide exclusion criteria for eligibility for NSAP.

(d): At present there is no proposal to increase the pension amount as part of NSAP and/or index it to inflation.